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TO THE HIGH AND HONOVRABLE COVRT OF PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of the Universsity *of* OXFORD, *in behalfe of* Episcopacy *and* Cathedralls.

OXFORD
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An. Dom. cIↃ IↃ CXLI.

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TO THE HIGH AND HONOVRABLE COVRT OF PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of the Universitie *of* OXFORD

SHEWETH

THAT whereas the *Vniverſitie* hath been informed of ſeverall Petitions concerning the preſent Government of this Church, & maintenance of the Clergie, which have of late been exhibited to this

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Honourable Assembly; Wee could not but think our Selves bound in duty to God, and this whole Nation, in charity to our Selves and Successors, who have and are like to have more then ordinary interest in any resolution that shall bee taken concerning Church-affaires, in all humilitie, to desire the continuance of that forme of Government, which is now established here, & hath been preserved in some of the Easterne and Westerne Churches, in a continued Succession of *Bishops*, down from the very Apostles to this present time; the like whereof cannot be affirmed of any other forme of Government in any Church. Upon which consideration, and such other motives as have been already represented to this Honourable Parliament from other Persons & places (with whom We concurre) in behalfe of *Episcopacy*, We earnestly desire, that You would protect that ancient and *Apostolicall Order* from ruine or diminution.

And become farther Suiters for the continuance

nuance of those pious Foundations of *Cathedrall Churches*, with their Lands and Revenewes.

As dedicate to the service and honour of God, soone after the plantation of Christianitie in the English Nation:

As thought fit and usefull to be preserved for that end, when the Nurseries of superstition were demolished, and so continued in the last and best times since the blessed Reformation, under *King Edw. 6. Q. Elizab.* & *K. James*, Princes renowned through the world for their piety and wisdome:

As approved and confirmed by the Lawes of this Land, ancient and moderne:

As the principall outward motive, and encouragement of all Students, especially in Divinitie, & the fittest reward of some deep and eminent Schollars:

As producing or nourishing in all Ages many godly and Learned men, who have most strongly asserted the truth of that Religion We professe, against the many fierce oppositions of our Adversaries of *Rome*:

As affording a competent portion in an ingenuous way to many younger Brothers of good Parentage, who devote themſelves to the Miniſtery of the Goſpell:

As the onely meanes of ſubſiſtence to a multitude of Officers and other Miniſters, who with their Families depend upon them and are wholy maintained by them:

As the maine Authors or upholders of diverſe Schooles, Hoſpitalls, high waies, bridges, & other publique and pious works:

As ſpeciall cauſes of much profit and advantage to thoſe Cities where they are ſcituate, not only by releiving their poore, & keeping convenient hoſpitality, but by occaſioning a frequent reſort of Strangers from other parts, to the great benefit of all Tradeſmen, and moſt Inhabitants in thoſe places:

As the goodly Monuments of our Predeceſſors Piety, and preſent Honour of this Kingdome in the eye of forreigne Nations:

As the cheife ſupport of many thouſand Families of the Laity, who enjoy faire eſtates from

from them in a free way:

As yeelding a conſtant and ample revenue to the Crowne:

And as by which many of the learned *Profeſſors* in our *Vniverſity* are maintained.

The ſubverſion or alienation whereof muſt (as we conceive) not only be attended with ſuch conſequences as will redound to the ſcandall of many well affected to our Religion, but open the mouthes of our Adverſaries, and of Poſterity againſt us; and is likely in time to draw after it harder conditions upon a conſiderable part of the Laity, an univerſall cheapneſſe and contempt upon the Clergie, a lamentable drowping and defection of induſtry and knowledge in the *Vniverſities*; which is eaſie to foreſee, but will be hard to remedy.

May it therefore pleaſe this Honourable Aſſembly, *upon theſe and ſuch other Conſiderations as your great Wiſedomes ſhall ſuggeſt, to take*

take ſuch pious care for the continuance of theſe Religious Houſes, *& their Revenews, according to the beſt intentions of their* Founders, *as may bee to the moſt furtherance of Gods glory and ſervice, the Honour of this Church and Nation, the advancement of* Religion *and* Learning, *the encouragement of the modeſt hopes and honeſt endeavours of many hundred* Students *in the* Univerſities

Who doe and ſhall ever pray &c.

Dat. xxlv. *Apr. An. Dom.* clɔ lɔ cxli.
è Domo Convocationis, in celebri Conventu Doctorum ac Magiſtrorum, omnibus & ſingulis aſſentientibus.